

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

State Capitol, Room 113
Sacramento, CA

Minutes of Meeting
December 13, 2007

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Cathie Bennett Warner
Michele Burton, M.P.H.
Jerome Horton
John Longville

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Wilma Chan
Vicki Marti
Nancy McFadden

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Toby Douglas, Department of Health Care Services

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT

Thomas Williams, Department of Finance

CMAC STAFF PRESENT

Keith Berger, Executive Director
Tacia Carroll
Paul Cerles
Denise DeTrano
Holland Golec
Mark Kloberdanz
Katie Knudson
Genaro Rodriguez
Steve Soto
Becky Swol
Mike Tagupa
Mervin Tamai
Karen Thalhammer

I. Call to Order

The December 13, 2007 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) was called to order by Chair Cathie Bennett Warner. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

The November 29, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as prepared by CMAC staff.

III. Executive Director's Report

Keith Berger, Executive Director, began his report by wishing everyone a happy holiday season. He noted that this is the last meeting of 2007 and that the next scheduled CMAC meeting is January 10, 2008 in room 112.

Mr. Berger expressed his appreciation for all the work both Commissioners and staff have done this year to maintain access for Medi-Cal beneficiaries to health care services in a difficult financial environment. Unfortunately, said Mr. Berger, next year looks like it will be even more difficult, given the size of the projected state budget deficit.

Mr. Berger informed the Commissioners that CMAC is planning on using room 112 for the next meeting because there is a scheduled opportunity for public comment on the process and focus of the Distressed Hospital Fund at the January 10, 2008 CMAC meeting. Staff has notified all of the hospitals and associations of this opportunity and of the initiation of this year's Distressed process.

After the last CMAC meeting, Mr. Berger noted, staff mailed out letters to all Selective Provider Contracting Program (SPCP) contract hospitals notifying them that CMAC is initiating the third year of the Distressed Hospital Fund. The letter also informed each of the hospitals of the public comment agenda item that will be on the January 10 meeting notice.

Mr. Berger indicated that the proposed timeline calls for the hospital proposals to be submitted by January 4, 2008. CMAC's schedule allows the Commission to finalize amounts in January and February and targets the provision of final recommendations to Commissioners for review and action in early March.

Mr. Berger noted that there is a very full closed session today with 29 contracts and amendments before the Commissioners for review and action, as well as a number of key updates and discussions regarding current hospital and managed care negotiations.

At this time, Chair Bennett Warner thanked CMAC staff as well as the Department of Health Care Services for their hard work this past year.

IV. Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Report

Toby Douglas, DHCS, informed CMAC that all ten counties participating in local programs through the 2005 Health Coverage Initiative, which is part of the hospital financing waiver, have begun enrollment and have already made coverage available to 14,000 individuals. Mr. Douglas noted that there are also approximately 31,000 individuals currently in the eligibility process, who hope to receive coverage shortly.

Regarding the Governor's health care reform proposal, Mr. Douglas indicated that the Administration continues to work closely with the Legislature to reach final agreement on various outstanding issues relating to coverage and affordability.

V. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment

There being no further new business and no comments from the public, Chair Bennett Warner recessed the open session. Chair Bennett Warner opened the closed session, and after closed session items were addressed, adjourned the closed session, at which time the Commission reconvened in open session. Chair Bennett Warner announced that the Commission had taken action on hospital and managed care contracts and amendments in closed session. The open session was then adjourned.